



LOCAL
Tree planting
 PAGE 2



REGION
HERO Act
 PAGE 3



SPORTS
Summer soccer
 PAGE 7

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Library boasts 'pride' at special storytime



As they sang different songs during the reading with pride event, families learned some basic signs. TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Agawam library hosted “Reading with Pride,” a family storytime, open to all ages.

At this event, they read books, sang songs, danced around and did some arts and crafts.

One of the books they read was Rainbow: A First Book of Pride by Michael Genhart.

“I think it’s important because so many people think of the rainbow flag, but they don’t know what it means,” Children’s Librarian Pamela Weingart said. “It’s more than just pretty, it means something and I thought that was

PRIDE | page 6

Debt exclusion passage paves way for AHS project

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The town voted in an overwhelming majority of 71.2%, or 3610 yes votes to 1455 no votes to support a debt exclusion as a funding mechanism for the Agawam High School project.

Town officials, especially the mayor, believe the 71.2% affirmative vote shows just how much the community supports building a new high school.

“You know a project like this is going to be controversial but to have the kind of margin that existed today, I think it shows that the people in town are pay-

ing attention, they understand the issue and they understand the best investment is to build a new high school,” Mayor Christopher Johnson said.

All who have collaborated to push the project to where it is today were overjoyed by the support from the town.

“It’s very telling about how supportive the community is,” Superintendent Sheila Hoffman said.

“It feels fantastic,” Johnson said. “The people have spoken, they want a new high school.”

Johnson was grateful to everyone who had come out and

PROJECT | page 9

Ribbon cut on more new pickleball courts at Borgatti Field

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Mayor Christopher Johnson and several city councilors came down to Borgatti Field for a ribbon cutting on June 12 at the two new pickleball courts.

These courts went under construction in March and they are now open for the public to use.

Also during this time the town repainted and resealed the existing four courts as well as the basketball court and built a new pavilion for people to use.

“I’m glad that we’re able to make this improvement,” Director of Parks and Recreation Christopher Sparks said.

Thanks to this work the area is now ADA compliant. There are sidewalks that connect the bathroom buildings to the bleachers and the buildings to the little league shed.

The total project cost was \$297,175. The Community Preservation Act and the city council approved \$247,175 and the Parks and Recreation Department paid \$50,000.

“The support of the CPA, the support of the city council, the support of the town administration, none of this would happen without that,” Sparks said.

The Department of Public Works and the Building Maintenance Departments also helped



City Councilor Anthony Russo, Mayor Christopher Johnson and some community members came together to play a round of pickleball.



Mayor Christopher Johnson and Administrative Assistant Barbara Bard tried out the new pickleball courts.



There was a ribbon cutting for the new pickleball courts at Borgatti Field held on Wednesday, June 12.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

PICKLEBALL | page 9



Garden Club plants tree at Thomas Smith House



Members of the Agawam Garden Club planted a white dogwood tree at the Historic Thomas Smith House to commemorate the club's 90th year. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ACC to hold large tag sale

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational church is having a huge tag sale on Friday, June 21 and Saturday, June 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many great items including clothes, jewelry, sports cards, household items, baby items, toys, books and much more.

Join in for a delicious strawberry supper. Enjoy roast pork, roasted potatoes, green bean almondine, and fresh strawberry shortcake on homemade biscuits with real whipped cream. Tickets are \$18 each and available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. through noon, or Sunday mornings after worship service.

Heritage Woods to hold open house next week

AGAWAM – Heritage Woods Senior Living will be holding an Open House on Wednesday, June 26 from 4 to 7 p.m. at 462 Main Street, Agawam. For more information call 413-786-9704.

Skidmarks kick off Summer Concert Series on June 26

AGAWAM – On Wednesday, June 26, the Skidmarks will be the first act in the Agawam Summer Concert Series at School Street Park at 7 p.m.

Do you remember drive-ins, poodle skirts, bobby socks, hula hoops, and 45 rpm records? Do you remember when you could actually understand the lyrics of a song as well as dance to the beat? If you do, you're in the right place for a Rock 'n' Roll Dance Party!! The Skid Marks have been entertaining audiences across the U.S. since

their inception in 1989 with all those wonderful hits from the 1950's and 60's. They bring authenticity to the tunes from the era by injecting the enthusiasm the music had at the time. This was Rock 'n' Roll and it needs to be played loud!! By dressing up as most bands did in those days and using as many vintage instruments as possible you not only get the sound but you also get the look. Catch a show and see how they transport their audience back to the days when Rock & Roll was born.

Senior Game at Borgatti Park

AGAWAM – On Saturday June 29, at St. John's Field there will be the site for the Western Mass Shuffleboard Competition of the MASS Senior Games.

The Senior games are open to anyone age 40 and over. Check in time is 9 a.m. and start time is 9:30 a.m. Equipment will

be provided. The cost of the event is \$30 which covers tee shirts for all athletes and medals for the winners age 50 and over.

For more information or to register go to maseniorgames.org. People may also contact the event manager, danarventos@comcast.net.

ACAA exhibiting new collection

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans is exhibiting their Historical collection of buildings and sites from Agawam and Feeding Hills at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam. The exhibit will be up for the month of June.

This exhibit includes well known buildings such as Cooper's Commons, The Captain Leonard House, The Thomas Smith House, School Street Barn, Betty's In The Patch just to name a few. There will be paintings of lesser-known buildings in Agawam, the first Gin Distillery in Agawam, Agawam Woolen Mills, The Agawam Diner, The Steamboat Sylvia, CNE Railroad in Feeding Hills and the es-

cape of the monkey we call Houdini from the Riverside Pirates Cove and many more.

The paintings are composed of pastel, colored pencil, oil, watercolor, pen and ink and acrylic. The artwork is for sale.

This not to be missed exhibit will be on display at the library until the end of June. More information on these paintings can be found at the Library Information Desk. The inspiration for some of this art came from the Agawam Historical Association website.

For more information on the stories behind the paintings please contact Ceil Rossi (413) 207-1247 or email tocare-free2@hotmail.com.

Mount Tom State Reservation announces summer events

HOLYOKE – Mt. Tom State Reservation has entrances on Routes 5 and 141 on the Easthampton/Holyoke line.

All programs are free of charge and admission to the park is free of charge after 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays. We meet at the picnic table next to the playground. Bring water (none is available) and bug spray. For more info email to J6663@netzero.net

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Senior Hike - A

one hour hike on easy trails.

Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. Advanced Hike for Seniors- 1-2 hour hike on all trails. We go slower and take many breaks in consideration of the age group. Both hikes are free of charge.

Starting in July, Saturdays at 6:00 p.m. Family programs with a different topic each week. Come eat your dinner at a picnic table at 4:30 p.m. or so and then join in on the program at 6:00 p.m.



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An employee since 2021

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Louis
A client since 2021

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Velis backs additions to HERO Act, Senate passes legislation

Last week, the Massachusetts State Senate unanimously passed legislation championed by Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield) which includes critical and comprehensive additions to strengthen the HERO Act to benefit not only the Commonwealth's veterans but also active-duty service members and their families.

The comprehensive legislative package, S.2817 An Act Honoring, Empowering and Recognizing Our Servicemembers and Veterans (HERO Act), would expand veteran eligibility for Chapter 115 benefits, remove specialty veteran license plate fees, increase annuity benefits for 100% disabled veterans and Gold Star families, expand veteran property tax exemptions, increase small business tax credits for hiring veterans, and expand access to veteran behavioral health treatment.

"Very few are brave enough to raise their hand and pledge to defend our nation and the values that we hold dear, no matter the cost. It is on us - as a Commonwealth - to always remember, recognize, and honor that sacrifice however we can. The legislation passed by the Senate today makes comprehensive and critical additions to the HERO Act to ensure that we are not only supporting Massachusetts veterans but also our active-duty service members and their families as well," shared Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield), Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. "I am extremely grateful for the dedication of my Senate colleagues, many of whom have filed legislation included in the bill passed today, and most especially for the leadership of Senate President Spilka and Chair Rodrigues in continuing to prioritize legislation that supports all those who have served and continue to serve in our armed forces."

The Senate's legislation builds on the historic legislative package filed by the Healey-Driscoll Administration by includ-

ing additional provisions which would:

- Require a public school district to provide support services to a military-connected student when a parent or guardian is called to active duty.
- Create a military spouse liaison to help military spouses with obtaining employment and childcare, and deal with other issues they face.
- Repeal the restriction that currently prevents Gold Star spouses from maintaining their annuity benefit if they remarry.
- Ensure that both the Holyoke and Chelsea Veterans Homes receive funding to replace lost license plate revenue from waiving the fee on veteran license plates.

During debate, the Senate adopted an amendment by Senator Velis that would protect veterans from predatory claim sharks that target veterans seeking seeking assistance filing claims with the federal Department of Veteran Affairs. It is currently federally illegal to charge hefty fees for "assisting" or "consulting" veterans with filing the VA benefits claims however, federal law lacks criminal penalties for these bad actors known as "Claim Sharks". The amendment adopted by the Senate today would prohibit someone from receiving compensation for assisting in a veterans benefit matters, except where allowed by federal law, and allows violators of this provision to be sued civilly.

"It is absolutely reprehensible that there are over 100 predatory claim shark companies operating and preying upon our Commonwealth's veterans. By creating serious consequences for this deceitful behavior, the Senate is taking a monumental step to protecting those who have sacrificed so much to defend our nation," explained Senator John C. Velis. "Often times, these claim shark companies are promising extremely vulnerable veterans increased disability ratings or expedited

claim decisions from the VA when in reality they are seeking to entrap Veterans into paying exuberant fees for minimal assistance. It is beyond disgusting that veterans are being taken advantage of in this way."

The bill passed by the Senate included 17 spending, policy initiatives, tax credits, and statute changes organized into three categories:

Benefit Expansion

- Expands access to Behavioral Health Treatment: Allows veterans to be reimbursed for visits to outpatient behavioral health providers.
- Increases the Disabled Veteran Annuity: Increases the annual annuity for veterans with a 100% service-connected disability, surviving spouses, or Gold Star Parents from \$2,000 to \$2,500.
- Increases the Vet-Hire Tax Credit: Increases to \$2,500 a tax credit for small businesses hiring chronically unemployed or low-income veterans.
- Increases access to the Active-Duty Buyback program: Lengthens the time-frame for veterans in public service to participate in the Active-Duty Service Buyback program and allows retroactive participation for veterans who missed the buyback opportunity. This program will enable veterans to purchase up to four years of active-duty service time toward their state retirement.
- Prevents the "COLA Cliff": Ensuring that a cost-of-living adjustment in Social Security benefits will not affect veterans' eligibility for Chapter 115 benefits in the middle of the state fiscal year.
- Increases Local Flexibility for Veterans Property Tax Exemptions: Creates two separate local options. The first allows municipalities to double the veteran property tax



Senator John Velis

exemption without doubling all other exemption clauses. The second ties the annual property tax abatement amount to inflation, allowing exempted property tax amounts to increase with inflation.

- Eliminates the Fee for Specialty License Plates for Veterans: Waives specialty license plate fees on specialty veteran license plates and creates a new woman veteran license plate decal.

Commitment to Inclusivity and Greater Representation

- Broadens the Chapter 115 Definition of Veteran: Expands eligibility to Chapter 115 and EOVS state veterans benefits by aligning eligibility with the federal definition of a veteran. This change allows more veterans to be eligible for the veteran annuity, Chapter 115 benefits, access to the Massachusetts Veterans Homes, and other state-provided benefits.
- Aligns the definition of a veteran dependent with the Family Court definition and updates Dependent Residency Requirements to ensure that dependents are able to access benefits.

Modernization of Veterans Services

- Codifies Dental Assistance Benefits, Medical Assistance Benefits, and Authority over state Veterans Cemeteries under the Executive Office of Veterans' Services.
 - Modernizes statute language for inclusivity and standardization Establishes a working group to study the potential benefits of alternative therapies in treating veterans suffering from mental health disorders.
- Having passed both the Senate and House, a conference committee will now be appointed to reconcile differences between the two versions.

Summer read-a-thon to benefit Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Beginning June 1 until July 31, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity will host a read-a-thon for everyone in the Hampden County footprint, from kids to the elderly.

Habitat's hope is to emphasize the importance of reading, while bringing awareness to their mission to provide stability through homeownership and home preservation. At the end of the read-a-thon, prizes will be awarded and a celebration will be held to honor the participants.

"I love reading so I felt like a GSHFH read-a-thon program was a must," Olga Calligos, GSHFH Homeowner and Programs coordinator, and read-a-thon planner said "I'm looking forward to connecting with the community over books and reading."

Unstable housing can disrupt a child's development and learning. Studies by the Early Education and Development Journal have shown children who frequently move or reside in substan-

dard housing during their early elementary years score lower on reading and math tests than children in stable housing. One out of six children who can't read proficiently by the end of third grade doesn't graduate high school on time. If we can produce more affordable and higher quality housing for the limited-income population, we can create more healthy learning environments to set more kids up for success.

"Reading is not only important, but fun and can really bring people together," Olga said.

For more information regarding the read-a-thon, visit habitatspringfield.org/one-for-the-books

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

First-Ever WorldFest to be held in West Springfield June 30

WEST SPRINGFIELD - WorldFest 2024 will be held on Sunday, June 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Dante Club, 1198 Memorial Avenue.

"This is a First-Ever World Fest," announced Roberta Page, president of It's West Springfield, Inc. the non-profit organization coordinating and presenting the event.

We are looking forward to celebrating cultures, traditions, ethnic foods, musical and dance entertainment, clothing, as well as educational information, Ms. Page continued.

West Springfield has over sixty languages spoken and many different ethnicities in town.

There has been interest from Turkish, Irish, Italian, Russian, Chinese, and so many others, looking to participate in one way or another.

There will be some tables with various displays with ethnic foods, for example. In addition, there will be seating so those in attendance can enjoy seeing and

hearing the entertainment and presentations, explained Ms. Page.

Many may not know that West Springfield has a Sister City in Ireland and one in Italy. In town, there are numerous headquarters for various cultures including Turkish, Irish, Russian, Chinese, and others.

There will be a nominal charge of \$5 for adults with all elementary, middle school, and high school students free.

Brightly-colored beads of purple, yellow, and green will be given out as well as helium balloons.

Interns from Westfield State University, West Springfield High School, and West Springfield Middle School will be assisting during the afternoon.

A silent auction will take place during the time of the event.

It's West Springfield thanks the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism and M&T Bank for sponsoring what is sure to be an exciting afternoon, Ms. Page said.

Agawam Advertiser News
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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Opinion

Guest Column

Habitat for Humanity welcomes newest co-op employee

By Brandice J. O'Brien

Marketing and Communications Manager,
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - David Gelmudinov is gaining real-life experience while making a difference in his community.

The 18-year-old junior at Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy in Springfield is participating in a cooperative education program with Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSH-FH).

Beginning in April and lasting until the end of the school year, David comes to GSHFH and works a one-week-on/one-week-off schedule. In his off-week, David is at school.

In his on-week, David is at Habitat 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily working with the construction crew.

"He's got a lot to learn, but he's young," said Joe Schebel, GSHFH interim construction manager. "We haven't done a lot, but he's slowly learning. He cleans a job site up well, follows orders well, and he has a good handle on how to use tools."

The co-op program is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Center for Clean Energy, through the Technical Trades Work and Learning Program. The program aims to enhance the talent pipeline for clean energy companies within the state by placing skilled labor from vocational high schools.

The program also reimburses the company for wages paid to interns.

Victor Santos, Putnam Cooperative Education director, said the co-op curriculum aims to expose students to technical and fundamental skills, tools, and a variety of tasks within the same project. Students should understand how to use a variety of tools and the settings in which they're appropriate.

They should also have training in installing windows, doors, baseboard trim, kitchen countertops, and other jobs necessary to building a home. Additionally, the opportunity to should allow the young carpenters to develop their character and learn to work as a team.

"We want them to hone skills to become better carpenters and gain the skills that allow them to stay employable," Victor said.

Since he's been with Habitat, David has done random tasks and helped build a ramp for a home preservation project. The work entailed laying out floor decking, building framing for the ramp, installing posts and supports, adding handicap rails, and trim for the rails.

"I like the work that's being done at an effective/efficient pace," David said.

Greater Springfield Habitat's next project, a home in Springfield, is expected to break ground later this month.

To learn more about Youth Workforce Development Initiative, visit habitatspringfield.org/workforce-development.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column

I'm already collecting SS how will my WEP be calculated



I don't understand exactly how the Windfall Elimination Provision works for my situation. I turned 62 in 2017 and am currently still working in a "non-covered" job, not paying into Social Security, but from which I will get a government pension when I retire. I began collecting Social Security at my full retirement age in 2021 and am now collecting \$1,507 per month thanks to the cost of living adjustments since I started. Will my Social Security benefit be reduced by \$587 if I retire this year?

Signed Confused by WEP

Dear Confused

You're certainly not alone to be confused by WEP and your situation is somewhat special because you started your SS benefits before taking your "non-covered" government pension. And, unfortunately, most tools and charts, which suggest how much WEP will reduce your Social Security benefit don't accommodate that nuance very well.

In your case, when you claimed Social Security at your Full Retirement Age, you were awarded the full benefit you were entitled to, unreduced by WEP because you were not yet collecting your non-covered government pension. You were able to collect your full SS amount and receive each year's full Cost Of Living Adjustments to those higher amounts.

What actually happens is that each person's Primary Insurance Amount is first determined at age 62 and Social Security applies an annually awarded COLA to their PIA even if they're not yet receiving benefits. You received your full PIA including COLA, because you claimed at your Full Retirement Age. But when you start collecting your pension from your non-covered government job, the Windfall Elimination Provision will kick in and reduce your Social Security benefit.

The amount of WEP reduction depends on how many years you had contributed to Social Security from "substantial" earnings but, with 20 or fewer years, the maximum WEP reduction is determined

by the year you turn 62 and doesn't change. Since you turned 62 in 2017, your maximum WEP reduction, according to Social Security's process, is \$442.50, lower than the \$587 you suspect.

Nevertheless, due to the way Social Security calculates the WEP reduction, the reduction from your current amount will seem larger than the WEP maximum. And that's because of the way Social Security applies the WEP reduction to your benefit. They start by first removing all COLA increases since you were 62 from your PIA. They will then take your PIA (sans COLA) and subtract \$442.50 (if you have more than 20 years of substantial SS-covered earnings they will subtract less and then they will reapply all the cost-of-living increases since you were 62 to the WEP-reduced PIA.

What just happened, in effect, is that your previous, pre-WEP, COLA increases were removed from your PIA and those same COLA percentages were reapplied to your smaller WEP-reduced PIA to arrive at your new monthly benefit amount under the Windfall Elimination Provision. And that new amount will be lower than your previous SS benefit amount by more than the published maximum WEP reduction for the year you turned 62.

A word of caution: Timely notification to Social Security of your non-covered pension is very important. As soon as you receive your non-covered pension award letter, deliver it to your local Social Security office and request a WEP recalculation of your SS retirement benefit. The WEP recalculation will likely take months to process, during which time you will continue to receive your higher non-WEP SS benefit. That means you will be overpaid for the period between when your non-covered pension started and the month your new WEP SS payment began and that overpayment must be refunded to Social Security.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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Election letters to the editor welcome

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered

for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

paper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Agawam Advertiser News.

Schools & Youth

COLLEGE NOTES

Megan Perrot named to Salve Regina's Dean's List

NEWPORT, RI – Megan Perrot of Agawam was named to the Dean's List during the Spring 2024 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Bryant University students named to Dean's List

SMITHFIELD, RI – Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement and have been named to the Spring 2024 Deans' List.

To earn a place on the Deans' List, students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.

Emily DeGeorge of Feeding Hills
Prem Patel of Agawam

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER



Matthew DiLullo was recently given the Arthur J. Leary, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. SUBMITTED PHOTO

DiLullo receives scholarship

AGAWAM – Matthew DiLullo recently received the 2024 Arthur J. Leary, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Recipient. Matthew recently graduated from Agawam High School. He is heading to Merrimack College this fall to pursue his degree in Business Management. Matthew is a polite and kind young man with a bright future and we are proud to pass on my Dad's award to him.

"I cannot believe that it has been 20 years since we lost my father. It's an honor to remember his impact on Agawam by sharing his scholarship," said Kathleen Gourde.

This scholarship was created to honor the memory of Arthur J. Leary Jr. Mr. Leary was an Agawam resident and the proud owner of the Country Squire Furniture Shop and Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home. His daughter, Kate Gourde, is the second-generation Shopkeeper of Cooper's Gifts. The recipient of this scholarship must be an Agawam, MA resident who will be pursuing a degree in Business Management beginning the September after high school graduation.

Summer session available at Holyoke Community College

HOLYOKE – Registration is open for summer session II classes at Holyoke Community College.

Classes begin Monday, July 8, and run through Aug. 23. Course offerings can be viewed at: hcc.edu/summer-2024.

Registration is also open for the fall 2024 semester, which starts on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Full 15-week semester classes

begin Sept. 3.

HCC will also be running three accelerated fall flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes also begin Sept. 3 but run for seven weeks until Oct. 23; Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Sept. 16, and run for 12 weeks; Flex Start III classes begin Monday, Oct. 29, and run for seven weeks.

Fall course offerings can be viewed at hcc.edu/fall-2024.

Prospective students interested in starting this summer or fall can find more information at hcc.edu/admission or by calling 413-552-2321. Students interested in visiting campus, should contact the HCC Admissions office at admissions@hcc.edu.

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At the "Reading with Pride" event children and families were able to make and decorate unicorns.



After completing their unicorns, the attendees of the "Reading with Pride" event went on a unicorn parade.



Everyone danced along to "If You're Happy and You Know It" at the "Reading with Pride" event at the library.



The children at the "Reading with Pride" event counted the number of fish on a poster.



Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart and Youth Associate Evan Delano led a "Reading with Pride" event, open to people of all ages. At the reading with pride event they sang the song "If I Were a Fish" and children got to play along with kazoo's.

PRIDE ■ from page 1

a fun way to introduce that." The book broke down the meanings of the different colors in the pride flag, such as red for life, orange for healing, and violet for spirit. During the event they also took the time to make unicorns that they used to have a unicorn parade around the library. "We picked unicorns because unicorns are magical and I think that really, truly deep inside everyone is magical," Weingart said. "So it's finding your inner unicorn and expressing it." Everyone seemed to have a good time decorating the unicorns and parading

around the library with their unicorn masks. They also had fun getting to dance around to music, and play with the ribbons that Weingart and Youth Associate Evan Delano provided them with. "One of my highlights was when Everett, he was pretty quiet and didn't share very much throughout the program, but when he got those ribbons on his arms, he became a dancing jellyfish and it was so sweet to see, he was so into it," Delano said. The kids and families also got a chance to join in the program by making some music. One of the songs Weingart and Delano chose for the event was "If I Were a Fish" and every kid got a kazoo so they could play along with the song instrumentals, an op-

portunity they were all delighted by. Delano and Weingart were glad that everyone seemed to be enjoying all the different activities throughout the reading with pride event. "I think everyone had a good time," Delano said. "I think the parents and kids both enjoyed it." Weingart and Delano hoped that through this event they would give everyone a space to be themselves and be proud of who they are. They felt they accomplished this goal. "I think everyone felt safe to be themselves and to be proud of who they are," Delano said. This was the library's first ever family

pride storytime and Delano and Weingart hope that it will not be the last. "We've had some pride programming for kids in grades five through twelve, but not a family storytime," Weingart said. "We're going to do it next year!" The library is dedicated to making sure that everyone in the community knows they can come by and find something that welcomes them, and they hope that pride programs like this will go a long way in making that message clear. "The Agawam library is for everybody, and all are welcome here," Weingart said. To learn more about upcoming events at the library, go to <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.

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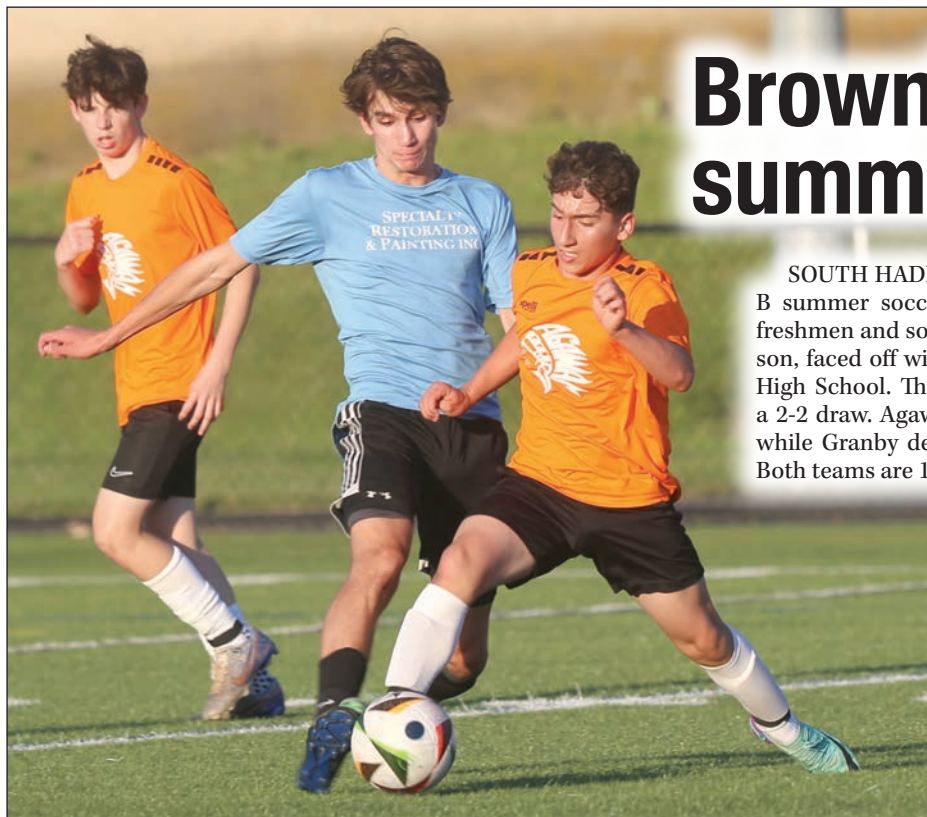
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SPORTS



Kyle Ghareeb reaches out to start a dribble.

Brownies open up summer season

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Wednesday, Agawam’s boys B summer soccer team, which consists of incoming freshmen and some junior varsity players from last season, faced off with Granby on the turf at South Hadley High School. The Brownies and Rams would finish in a 2-2 draw. Agawam also had a win over Chicopee 2-0 while Granby defeated Enfield in it’s other action 4-0. Both teams are 1-0-1 after the first week of the season.



Nathan Bassette goes for a free kick.

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Final year of current alignments set to take place

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The new state tournament format has brought with it a lot of complications, criticisms, and changes for teams, especially many of those in Western Massachusetts who never voted in favor of the tournament changing.

The format was widely pushed by the Eastern half of the state while Western Mass. teams lost their beloved sectional tournaments as they knew them.

But like any tournament or formula, it has its flaws and it is constantly evolving.

Western Massachusetts, which uses the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference to make its local leagues and now host a small Western Mass. tournament in most sports, is

heading into its final school year of a four-year alignment agreement.

After this year, teams will be realigned, and power rankings could be a bigger factor in how leagues are created going forward.

Previously, leagues are typically compiled using previous years records as a measure, and teams are placed in leagues based on competition, often intermingling teams from different divisions.

This can help or hurt teams. Smaller schools benefit from playing larger schools in their league because the larger schools help the power rankings of small schools.

The opposite is often the result for larger schools, which sometimes need every point possible to qualify for the state tournament as part of the top

ALIGNMENTS | page 8



John Carra sends a quick touch to his left.



Aiden Monaghan fakes and then continues up the field.

Pioneers score big shutout over AC Connecticut

LUDLOW – Last Tuesday evening, the Western Mass. Pioneers defeated AC Connecticut, a longtime rival, 5-0. The match brought the Pioneers record to 5-1-1 on the season. The Pioneers will have one more meeting later this season with AC Connecticut. The Pioneers also battled to a scoreless draw against Vermont Green FC last Saturday evening in Vermont. Coming up, the Pioneers will host Boston City FC for the first time this season on Friday, June 21 at 7 p.m.



Leonel watches his kick away.



Kerman Sukia gets ready to clear the ball.

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Gianluca Cersosimo sends a long free kick away.

Sports

Williams takes win in Nutmeg State 50

THOMPSON, CT – Finally, fantastic weather greeted fans, teams and officials at Thompson Speedway last Thursday night for the rebirth of Thursday Night Thunder at the Big-T with the Nutmeg State 50 presented by Twisted Tea.

The Street Stocks led the evening's activities, 16 strong on Thursday. While Mike Viens showed the way under the initial green flag, familiar faces quickly flooded the top of the field. From a ninth-place start, Ryan Waterman powered up through the top-ten to take the top spot with a rear-view mirror full of 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett. They would cross the line 1.2 in the 20-lap green-to-checkers feature followed by a competitive Jason Chicolas in third with Aaron Plemons and Icebreaker winner Al Stone III rounding out the top-five.

The AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds were not so lean and green, throwing two cautions in the first three laps, the last of which saw Danny Gamache hooked off after racing hard with Nick Hovey in the opening circuits. Driving up through from an eighth-place start, Ellington's Tyler Chapman claimed the Twisted Tea Thursday night victory to bolster his AZ Roofing SK Light Modified point lead followed by Hovey and Daltin McCarthy on the podium.

A slow start to the Mini Stock race quickly worked itself out with Icebreaker winner Jared Roy claiming his sec-

ond win of the season followed by Ryan Pomposelli and Kevin Moore across the line. The Sunoco 604 Modifieds put on a thrilling show with the thirty-lap feature event dominated by a side-by-side fight for the lead between Keith Rocco and Danny Cates. The two swapped the lead, and paint, dive-bombing into the corners with Rocco coming out on top to take his first 604 Modified victory over Cates and Icebreaker winner Jon Puleo. Isaiah Newcomb battled from the last row up to fourth with Chase Cook rounding out the top-five.

Fourteen Late Models rolled into the pits for Twisted Tea Thursday Night action. A competitive start turned sour on lap 23 with Ryan Lineham leading the pack.

Facing hefty pressure from Matt Lowinski-Loh, both lead cars slammed into the turn one wall bringing out the night's lone red flag for clean-up and safety check from Thompson's medical team. Both drivers walked away unscathed, their machines were not so lucky.

More drama unfolded on Kulwicki Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Derek Gluchacki with a growing smoke screen from a leaking rear end forced officials to send the 03MA pit side for the remainder of the event. Coming through it all, defending champion Nick Johnson nabbed the checkers followed by Icebreaker victor Ryan Morgan and

fellow former champ Brian Tagg.

The green-to-checker 50 lap sprint for the Outlaw Open Modifieds went start to finish in just over 16 minutes. The Nutmeg State 50 presented by Twisted Tea, and it's \$5,000 prize, were taken by Ellington's Ronnie Williams over a hard-charging Matt Swanson and young-gun Jacob Perry.

Thursday Night Thunder is back at Thompson Speedway in just two weeks on Thursday, June 27 headlined by the 3rd Dash for Cash \$5,000-to-win, 50-lapper for the Outlaw Open Modifieds! All five divisions of track championship action including the Sunoco 604 Modifieds, Late Models, AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Mini Stocks are back in action on Thursday, June 27 with a 6:00pm Post Time!

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Bristol scores late to beat Blue Sox

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

BRISTOL – With two outs and a runner on second base in the bottom of the seventh inning with John Kwiatkowski pitching to Bristol hitter Dean Ferrara, the Blue Sox had the chance to end the inning with the lead on a groundball to second base.

Second baseman Andre Vidal made a wild throw to first base that first baseman Justin Butler couldn't grab and allowed Bristol Blues' Jordan Peyton to score and tie the game 7-7. Bristol scored one run in the bottom of the eighth inning and won 8-7 on Sunday night.

Blue Sox 11, Westerners 8

It was an offensive affair throughout the game between the Valley Blue Sox (5-3) and the Danbury Westerners (2-6) last Friday.

The Westerners jumped out to an early 4-1 lead going into the third inning, but Jonathon Hogart for the Blue Sox had other plans as he hit a three run shot deep to left-field to tie the game up at 4-4.

Moving on to the top of the 8th inning, the Blue Sox found themselves down by one with Hogart again at the plate. With Conor Larson on third base, Westerner's pitcher at the time Tyler Muscar threw a wild pitch that brought Larson home

BLUE SOX | page 9

ALIGNMENTS | from page 7

32 teams in its respective sports and division. While a .500 record will get you into

the state tournament, if you are below .500, you will get a low seed and possibly a trip across the state depending on where you draw.

There have already been some interesting changes happening in some league since the last alignment. Among them, Longmeadow no longer competes in the PVIAC for boys and girls lacrosse. Longmeadow has been sectional champion almost every year for the past 25 years. Now, the Lancers play a completely independent schedule designed more for its competition level and to benefit its power rankings for the state tournament.

In football, there has been a push to see the same happen to Central football, which has dominated schools like Minnechaug, Agawam, Holyoke, and Chicopee Comprehensive for the past decade. However, the challenge with an independent schedule for the Golden Eagles is that almost all teams in the state play a conference schedule in Week's 4 through 8, making it difficult to find games. Most football teams play independent games in Weeks 1 through 3.

Realignment work will start taking place following the fall season when committees begin meeting, and will continue following each season during the next school year.

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PICKLEBALL ■ from page 1

with building this project.

"It's really a city-wide collaboration," Sparks said.

The town decided to invest in these courts as people could easily see the growing popularity of the sport in town.

"The sport itself has taken off not only here in Agawam but nationally and worldwide," Sparks said.

Members from all over the community have come out to enjoy the courts and try their hand at this up and coming sport.

"I've also seen the sport change from what was primarily seniors to people of all ages," Sparks said.

In the first week of opening the new courts Sparks saw about 25 high school kids putting on their own pick-up pickleball tournament.

"To see the young kids involved in this sport is tremendous," Sparks said.

It was easy to see the day of the ribbon cutting that people were enjoying the sport. Even though it was a Wednesday morning, there were plenty of people out on the courts playing the game.

"We're here on a weekday morning and mostly all of the courts are in play," Johnson said.

Johnson even tried his hand at the sport while waiting for the ribbon cutting ceremony to begin, and he plans to return again soon.

"I had never picked up a paddle before coming here today and I understand how

addictive the sport is," Johnson said. "It's great for people of all ages."

Initially two pickleball courts were built at Borgatti field, but those quickly grew popular and more space was needed. Therefore, the town built two more.

"They immediately took off so we looked at it again last year and we decided to add the two new courts," Johnson said. "They're a great attribute for the town."

Now the sport has grown even more well-known, and so the town built the newest two courts to ensure that more people would get a chance to play.

The town had been one of the first communities in the area to put up pickleball courts, thanks to resident Richard Dudek who originally brought the idea of pickleball to Agawam about seven years ago.

Dudek had been playing pickleball for years and when he moved to Agawam he wanted to continue to be able to play the sport and to spread it to his new community.

Thanks to him pickleball is now easily accessible for all members of the Agawam community, and the pickleball courts Agawam has are often called the best in Western Massachusetts.

"People play all over western Massachusetts and they still tout these as the best courts in the area," Sparks said. "Someone just said there were people here from Georgia and they said these courts and this layout was incredible, so we're getting national attention."

PROJECT ■ from page 1

voted in favor of the project.

"Many thanks to all the vote yes workers who did so much hard work to get people out and to spread the word," Johnson said. "Most of all, a special, special thanks to the voters of Agawam for understanding that building a new high school is the right thing to do."

Johnson felt that his work in spreading information about the project more than paid off.

"When I woke up this morning I said to myself, 'I don't know what more I could have done personally to get the word out,'" Johnson said.

Hoffman agreed that voters were well informed about what building a new high school would mean for a town, as well as what it would mean to wait to build.

"I talked to a lot of seniors who said it's a no-brainer to build a new school," Hoffman said.

So many people in the town contributed to making this project a possibility. Johnson was grateful to Hoffman, Agawam High School Principal James Blain and many others for all of their work.

All of these people put in hours and hours

of work into helping to start and organize the project so it could be at this stage for this year.

"It's been a very, very long process to get to this point," Johnson said. "We're in year four of the MSBA process for this building so a lot of people did a lot of hard work to get here. They deserve the lion's share of the credit for making this happen."

Johnson specifically gave a shout out to Former Mayor William Sapelli, as without his initial efforts this project would not have gotten started.

"It started under Bill Sapelli, he deserves a lot of credit for starting it under his leadership and getting the project going and bringing it to where he handed it off to me," Johnson said.

Now that the project has officially been approved by the town, Johnson and the others involved are going to shift their focus to preparing to go before the MSBA in late June, and to move onto the next phase of the project.

"It's going to be a three, three-and-a-half-year process to build this school, but like I said we're entering into year four now of the planning and feasibility process so now we're going to be able to actually move forward and get a new school building," Johnson said.

BLUE SOX ■ from page 8

to tie the game once again. This score remained tied as the ninth inning expired, to lead the Blue Sox to their third straight game going into extra innings.

However, this game was different than the previous two, as the Blue Sox led off the inning as they were the road team. With the help of a couple errors and walks from Westerner pitcher Zeph Arnold and Paul Glenchur, the Blue Sox opened up an 11-7 lead going into the bottom of the inning, and if that wasn't enough Zachary Laird's superb relief pitching from the past two innings continued as his only run given up was in the bottom of the 10th to close the deal.

Laird finished with five strikeouts over three innings pitched while only giving up one earned run.

The Valley Blue Sox tie with the Bristol Blues for first place in the western division with this win, both teams with a record of 5-3. The two teams have not squared off yet due to the rain delay, but they will be facing off in the next couple days.

As for the early season struggles, the Blue Sox hitting has been unbelievable over these last four games. Hitting multiple home runs, but more importantly hitting the ball when it matters most. They are undefeated in games that go to extra innings so far, and it is a testament to their grit and toughness as Justin Butler alluded to earlier this season.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Breezed through
 - 5. Supervises interstate commerce
 - 8. Unruly group
 - 11. Backs away from
 - 13. Expression of understanding
 - 14. Have concern for
 - 15. Monetary units
 - 16. Congressman (abbr.)
 - 17. Iranian city
 - 18. Eating houses
 - 20. 2,000 lbs.
 - 21. Grandmother
 - 22. They include North, South and Central
 - 25. In an early way
 - 30. Foes
 - 31. Shuttered British entertainment magazine
 - 32. One who unloads cages
 - 33. Another term for sesame
 - 38. Formally forbid
 - 41. Make clear
 - 43. Inaccessible
 - 45. Get through
 - 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - 49. Decameter
 - 50. Type of sword
 - 55. Actor Idris
 - 56. Affirmative (slang)
 - 57. Afflicted
 - 59. One point north of northeast
 - 60. Born of
 - 61. Arabic name
 - 62. Traditional Hong Kong street food: ___ pai dong
 - 63. Termination point
 - 64. Email function
 - CLUES DOWN**
 - 1. Sign language
 - 2. In style
 - 3. Helsinki neighborhood
 - 4. Unable to hear
 - 5. More rapid
 - 6. An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
 - 7. In a cagy way
 - 8. Kate and Rooney are two
 - 9. Algerian port
 - 10. Community in Ladakh
 - 12. Midway between south and southeast
 - 14. Town in Galilee
 - 19. Satisfy
 - 23. Italian impressionist painter
 - 24. Brass instrument
 - 25. Chest muscle (slang)
 - 26. Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
 - 27. Records electric currents generated by the brain
 - 28. Woman (French)
 - 29. Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
 - 34. Baseball stat
 - 35. Pointed end of a pen
 - 36. Popular sports league
 - 37. Body part
 - 39. Unlikely to provoke dissent
 - 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
 - 41. Domesticated house pet
 - 42. Untruths
 - 44. Set out to attract
 - 45. Spiritual leader
 - 46. Abba ___, Israeli politician
 - 47. Repair
 - 48. Genus of flowering plants
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Prejudice
 - 53. River in central Europe
 - 54. Harness
 - 58. Father

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 3

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29	30	31	32	Base Price \$30.50 Base Price \$31.00 Base Price \$31.50 Base Price \$32.00
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Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No. HD14P1201PM
In the matter of:
James J D'Amato
Of: Agawam, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the Ninth account(s) of William P D'Amato of Colchester, VT as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **07/15/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right

to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 10, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/20/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No. HD21P2119PM
In the matter of:
Janice Amelia Fortunato of Agawam, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are

hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First account(s) of Gilbert Fortunato of Feeding Hills, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **07/10/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written

affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 05, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/20/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P1273GD
In the matter of:
James J D'Amato
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Kathy F Parker** of Somers, CT in the above captioned matter alleging that **James J D'Amato** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Tania K Spear** of West Springfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to

serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **07/11/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 13, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/20/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD14P1201PM
In the interests of:
James J D'Amato Of:
Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO MODIFY THE POWERS OF A CONSERVATOR**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **William P D'Amato** of Colchester, VT in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Modify the powers of a of a Conservator of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 AM on the return date of **07/09/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 11, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/20/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD20P0595GD
In the interests of
James J D'Amato
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR RESIGNATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Kathy F Parker** of Somers, CT in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the

court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **07/09/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expenses.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court

Date: June 11, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/20/2024

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA, 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on July 08, 2024 at 8:00 am., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

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2023 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFE1E56PH474645
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16 Willow St., Apt. #3
Springfield, MA 01103.
06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

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In observance of July 4th,
PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS
WILL HAVE AN EARLY AD DEADLINE
Please place your public notice & classified ad no later than **NOON**
Thursday, June 27



The 2024 Summer Concert Series
is proudly brought to you by
Agawam Parks & Recreation,
The Agawam Rotary Club, &
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2024 SummerFest

Shows will be held at 7:00PM in the band shell at the School Street Park, 418 Corey Street.
In case of rain SummerFest concerts will be cancelled.
Please call Parks and Recreation at 821-0514 for cancellations.

Wednesday, June 26



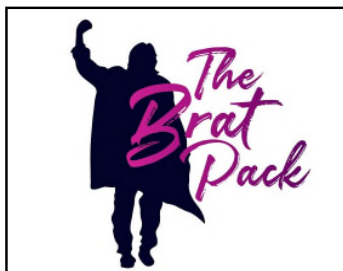
Skid Marks

Wednesday, July 3



Dave Colucci

Wednesday, July 10



The Brat Pack

Wednesday, July 17



Back in Black

Wednesday, July 24



7 Roads

Wednesday, July 31



Neal and
The Vipers

Tuesday, August 6 *



Cover Daddys

Wednesday, August 14



Lindsey LaBelle
Kix 100.9

Wednesday, August 14



Dillon Carmichael
Kix 100.9

Wednesday, August 21



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*Tuesday, August 6 **National Night Out** Celebration at School Street Park.
This is a night for America to stand together and promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight for a safer nation.

2024 KidsFest

Shows will be held at 10:00AM in the pavilion at the School Street Park, 418 Corey Street.
In case of rain SummerFest concerts will be cancelled.
Please call Parks and Recreation at 821-0514 for cancellations.

Wednesday, July 10



The Ooch Experience

Wednesday, July 24



Roger Tincknell

Wednesday, August 14



George Saterial

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